

In the Claims

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of using text from a design tool to display an output to a user, said method comprising:
 - graphically displaying said output from said text of said design tool;
 - graphically listing design rule violations;
 - displaying said output as part of a software layer of said design tool including graphically highlighting or bounding a feature central to said design rule violation such that no permanent changes are made to any original design file;
 - generating and annotating a subset output file for use by said user and other users; and
 - generating software help functions allowing said user and other users to gain information about design rule violations.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said design tool is a design rule checking system.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said text comprises text output from said design tool.
4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein said text output from said design tool comprises an input file for software implementing said method.
5. (original) The method of claim 1 including individually selecting said design rule violations.
6. (original) The method of claim 1 including representing said output as part of said software layer of said design tool, and deleting said output when no longer required.

7. (original) The method of claim 6 including having said software layer presented in a pop-up window display.
8. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein said pop-up window further includes information identifying said design rule violations, net name, component name, information relating to design rules.
9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein said pop-up window further comprises the identification of parameters being checked along with information as to said parameters' importance.
10. (original) The method of claim 1 including drawing a bounding box around any of said design rule violations.
11. (original) The method of claim 1 including loading and viewing said subset output file without running said design tool rule checker.
12. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said subset file includes saved information relating to an identified violation.
13. (original) The method of claim 12 further including electronically sharing said saved information with different users.
14. (original) The method of claim 12 comprising requesting said identified violation be saved such that a resulting output file contains only those of said design rule violations that a user requested be saved, preserving said original design file.
15. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said software help functions include highlighting, zooming, measuring cumulative distance between multiple points, changing

viewpoints of a design, changing magnification level, changing feature visibility, and changing location of a viewport.

16. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising reselecting said design rule violations to return to an originally presented view.

17. (currently amended) A method of viewing violations identified by a design rule checker comprising:

- inputting text output from said design rule checker into a software program routine for viewing said violations;
- inputting design file information into said software program routine;
- generating a subset output file of said violations for a user to view;
- graphically highlighting or bounding a feature central to said violation; and
- editing said design file based on said violations.

18. (original) The method of claim 17 further comprising:
inputting design data and rule checker parameters into a design rule checking tool; and
performing design rule checking.

19. (original) The method of claim 17 including generating a subset text output file of said violations.

20. (original) The method of claim 17 including allowing said user to individually select said violations.

21. (original) The method of claim 17 including representing said output as part of a software layer of said design rule checker, and deleting said output when no longer required.

22. (original) The method of claim 21 including having said software layer presented in a pop-up window display.

23. (currently amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for using text from a design tool to display an output to a user, said method steps comprising:

graphically displaying said output from said text of said design tool;

graphically listing design rule violations;

displaying said output as part of a software layer of said design tool including graphically highlighting or bounding a feature central to said design rule violation such that no permanent changes are made to any original design file;

generating and annotating a subset output file for use by said user and other users; and

generating software help functions allowing said user and other users to gain information about design rule violations.

24. (original) The program storage device of claim 23 wherein said text comprises text output from said design tool.

25. (original) The program storage device of claim 24 wherein said text output from said design tool comprises an input file for software implementing said method.

26. (original) The program storage device of claim 23 including individually selecting said design rule violations.

27. (original) The program storage device of claim 23 including representing said output as part of said software layer of said design tool, and deleting said output when no longer required.

28. (original) The program storage device of claim 27 including having said software layer presented in a pop-up window display.

29. (currently amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for viewing violations identified by a design rule checker, said method steps comprising:

- inputting text output from said design rule checker into a software program routine for viewing said violations;
- inputting design file information into said software program routine;
- generating a subset output file of said violations for a user to view;
- graphically highlighting or bounding a feature central to said violation; and
- editing said design file based on said violations.

30. (original) The method of claim 29 including generating a subset text output file of said violations.

31. (new) A method of using text from a design tool to display an output to a user, said method comprising:

- graphically displaying said output from said text of said design tool;
- graphically listing design rule violations;
- displaying said output as part of a software layer of said design tool such that no permanent changes are made to any original design file;
- generating and annotating a subset output file for use by said user and other users;
- loading and viewing said subset output file without running said design tool rule checker; and
- generating software help functions allowing said user and others to gain information about design rule violations.

32. (new) The method of claim 31 including representing said output as part of said software layer of said design tool, and deleting said output when no longer required.

33. (new) The method of claim 32 including having said software layer presented in a pop-up window display.

34. (new) The method of claim 33 wherein said pop-up window further includes information identifying said design rule violations, net name, component name, information relating to design rules.

35. (new) A method of using text from a design tool to display an output to a user, said method comprising:

- graphically displaying said output from said text of said design tool;
- graphically listing design rule violations;
- displaying said output as part of a software layer of said design tool such that no permanent changes are made to any original design file;
- generating and annotating a subset output file for use by said user and other users; and
- generating software help functions allowing said user and others to gain information about design rule violations, wherein said software help functions include highlighting, zooming, measuring cumulative distance between multiple points, changing viewpoints of a design, changing magnification level, changing feature visibility, and changing location of a viewport.

36. (new) The method of claim 35 including representing said output as part of said software layer of said design tool, and deleting said output when no longer required.

37. (new) The method of claim 36 including having said software layer presented in a pop-up window display.

38. (new) The method of claim 37 wherein said pop-up window further includes information identifying said design rule violations, net name, component name, information relating to design rules.